

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10
ARA-10 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NASA-01
NEA-10 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-11 CEQ-01
OES-07 SS-15 EB-08 NRC-05 /158 R

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O R 152245Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040373

GENEVA FOR CCD AND CTB DELS; BERN FOR INDIAN OCEAN DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, IO, US, UR

SUBJECT: UNSSOD PREPCOM IV: SOVIET CONSULTATION

REFS: USUN 484, 489

1. IN INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET DELEGATION TO PREP-
COM IV ON DISARMAMENT MACHINERY, US DELEGATION SHOULD MAKE
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FOLLOWING POINTS:

--US HAS NOT YET FORMULATED ITS POLICY ON DISARMAMENT
MACHINERY ISSUES EXPECTED TO ARISE IN SSOD, SO COMMENTS
ARE PRELIMINARY IN NATURE;

--US INTEREST IS IN MAINTAINING INTEGRITY OF EXISTING

DISARMAMENT MACHINERY, IN PARTICULAR CCD. WE WANT TO WORK WITH SOVIET DELEGATION TO ACHIEVE THIS END;

--IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD STRONGLY RESIST EFFORTS TO TRANSFORM CCD INTO A UN BODY, EXPAND ITS MEMBERSHIP SIGNIFICANTLY OR ALTER ITS RULES OF PROCEDURES.

--ON ISSUE OF CCD CO-CHAIRMANSHIP, WE ARE FLEXIBLE BUT WISH TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SOVIETS. AT PRESENT WE REGARD THE INSTITUTION AS LARGELY SYMBOLIC IN IMPORTANCE AND WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER MODIFICATIONS, SUCH AS ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP, IF THIS WOULD RELIEVE OTHER PRESSURES FOR CHANGE IN STRUCTURE OF CCD.

--ON OTHER DISARMAMENT MACHINERY ISSUES, WE WILL BE MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO AVOID PROLIFERATION OF UN BODIES WITH CONSEQUENT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND ADVERSE EFFECTS ON OTHER DISARMAMENT FORUMS.

--FOCUSING FIRST COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES AND STRENGTHENING UN CENTER FOR DISARMAMENT STRIKE US AS TWO ISSUES WHERE WE COULD MEET NON-ALIGNED DEMANDS FOR STRENGTHENED UN MACHINERY WITHOUT DAMAGING OTHER INTERESTS

--AS TO FOLLOW-ON TO SSOD, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE A CALL FOR A WDC WOULD BE PREMATURE. A CONSENSUS SEEMS TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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BUILDING ON THE IDEA OF SSOD II IN 3-5 YEARS. WE BELIEVE A 5 YEAR INTERVAL WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, AND THAT SETTING SUCH A GOAL WOULD HELP TO DEFLECT DEMANDS FOR AN UNREALISTIC PROGRAM OF ACTION WHICH WOULD GO BEYOND WHAT WE COULD SUBSCRIBE TO.

2. IN FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS AND OTHERS ON DISARMAMENT MACHINERY, FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS SHOULD BE MADE:

--WE RECOGNIZE NEED TO MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY ON DISARMAMENT MACHINERY IN ORDER TO BE RESPONSIVE TO STRONGLY HELD NON-ALIGNED VIEWS AND TO MAKE IT EASIER TO DRAW FRENCH AND, EVENTUALLY, PRC INTO NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

--WE HAVE AN OPEN MIND ABOUT PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY NON-ALIGNED AND OTHERS.

--THE MAIN CRITERION WE WILL USE IN JUSTIFYING ANY SUCH PROPOSALS IS WHETHER IT PRESERVES EFFECTIVENESS OF DISARMAMENT MACHINERY. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION OF REQUESTS FOR NEW UN BODIES WILL ALSO INFLUENCE OUR THINKING.

3. SHOULD SOVIETS RAISE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE IN CONTEXT OF SSOD, US DEL SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

--US WANTS A CONSTRUCTIVE SSOD SESSION FREE FROM PROPAGAND AND COLD-WAR RHETORIC.

--WE ARE DISTURBED AT INDICATION THAT USSR INTENDS TO RAISE "NEUTRON BOMB" ISSUE, WHICH APPEARS TO US THE KIND OF PROPAGANDA EXERCISE WHICH COULD SOUR THE MOOD OF THE SSOD AND INTERFERE WITH US-SOVIET COOPERATION IN SUPPORT OF COMMON INTERESTS.

--USSR WOULD BE SERIOUSLY DISTURBED IF WE ATTEMPTED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SCORE DEBATING POINTS ON THREAT POSED BY SOVIET WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUCH AS SS-20 OR IF WE RAISED QUESTION OF HAZARDS POSED BY NUCLEAR REACTORS IN EARTH ORBIT IN A TENDENTIOUS FASHION IN UN BODIES. WE FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT THE "NEUTRON BOMB" ISSUE, WHICH WE BELIEVE HAS NO PLACE IN SSOD.

--WE URGE SOVIET DELEGATION TO CAREFULLY WEIGH THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF MOUNTING A CAMPAIGN ON THIS ISSUE, NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF ITS EFFECT ON POSSIBILITIES FOR OUR COOPERATION IN SSOD BUT ALSO IN LIGHT OF PROBABLE REACTION OF UN MEMBERSHIP TO INTRODUCTION OF AN ISSUE WHICH MANY WILL SEE AS DISRUPTIVE AND REMOTE FROM THEIR CONCERNS.

4. FOR MOSCOW: YOU MAY DRAW ON POINTS ABOVE IN DISCUSSING SSOD WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS, USING POINTS IN PARA 3 ONLY IF SOVIETS RAISE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE IN SSOD CONTEXT.

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